

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Heinz-Walter JOSPEH et al. : Art Unit:  
Serial No.: To Be Assigned : Examiner:  
Filed: Herewith :  
For: VACUUM DISTILLATION PLANT :  
AND THE USE THEREOF FOR  
CONCENTRATING ORGANIC  
AQUEOUS SOLVENT MIXTURES

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified  
application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-5, 7-9, 11, 13, and 16-19 as follows.

Please add new claims 22-47 as follows.

Please cancel claims 20 and 21 without prejudice.

- 1 3. (Amended) A vacuum distillation plant according to
- 2 claim 1, wherein the condenser is positioned in such way that the bottoms
- 3 product serves as a heat carrier liquid for the condenser before being recycled
- 4 to the evaporator.